

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 have been allowed. Claims 9-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,424,799 (Gilmore '799).

Applicants wish to thank Examiners Glass and Martin for the courtesy of an interview on November 1, 2005, at which time the outstanding rejection was discussed, as were possible claim amendments. Based upon the discussion held at that time and the Examiners' suggestions for further claim amendments, Claims 9-13 have been amended to clarify that the control means performs speed control to set a target value of the rotating speed of the rotating body when pressing work is not being performed. Claim 9 has further been amended to recite that the torque control is performed with feedback control to provide a target value of the torque according to the operation amount of the operation means instead of speed control. As discussed during the interview, it is respectfully submitted that claims of this scope define over the prior art.

According to the feature of the invention set forth in Claim 9, control means of a rotation control device performs speed control to set a target value of the rotating speed of a rotating body according to an operation amount of an operation means when a pressing work is not being performed, and instead performs torque control during pressing work, with feedback control to provide a target value of the torque according to the operation amount of the operation means. For example, according to the non-limiting embodiment of Figure 9 a decision is made whether to perform speed control (step S6) or torque control (step S4) based upon the rotation speed (step S3). Torque control is illustrated in Figure 10 and includes the calculation of a target value based, for example, on a torque map 49, together with feedback control (page 20, lines 12-17).

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Gilmore '799. Gilmore '799 is directed to a power screwdriver having a pulse operation under high load conditions. According to Gilmore '799, the motor control circuit intermittently pulses the motor ("ratcheting mode") for predetermined periods of time after a threshold current level is obtained. The sudden impact of the motor torque on the gear train during the pulse periods causes a sudden and high burst of torque to be imparted to the output spindle of the drill (paragraph bridging columns 1 and 2). The "torque bursts" involve applying a maximum current signal for a predetermined on-time interval, and alternating this on signal with an off operation until the trigger switch is released (column 3, lines 11-16). The ratcheting mode of operation involving torque bursts is initiated when the motor speed drops below a predetermined speed, and the ratio of torque on/torque times off is dependent on the position of the trigger switch (column 4, lines 20-37).

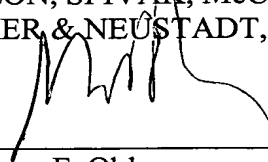
It was the position of the Examiners during the interview that the ratcheting mode represents a form of torque control. However, as Applicants explained, any such torque control involves only two states – full torque on and zero torque -- and does not include "feedback control to provide a target value of the torque." No torque target value is determined and there is no disclosure of torque control with feedback control. Thus, even to the extent that the ratcheting mode of operation in Gilmore can be considered torque control during pressing work, amended Claim 9 nonetheless defines over this reference.

Claims 10-13 are directed to a feature of the invention whereby speed control is maintained when performing pressing work, but a torque limitation is imposed on the speed control. An example of this is illustrated in Figure 12 and described on page 21 of the specification. On the other hand, as the Examiners recognized during the interview, Gilmore '799 performs a type of torque control during pressing work, but not speed control.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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